

# BERNAL JOURNAL

1983

February/March

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## What's a Parent to do?



State Pre-School teacher Elena Munoz serves lunch to (from left) Pedro, Antonio, William, Mateo, and Liana.

### CHILDCARE IN BERNAL

by Liz Walker

Before Jason was born I planned the ideal arrangement: my husband and I each would work part-time and share Jason's childcare. If one of us wanted to work full-time, we would find a pleasant daycare facility, preferably run by a warm, grandmotherly woman who took in a few other well-behaved children.

Now that Jason is six months old I am thinking of returning to work. Creating my ideal arrangement is not as easy as it once seemed. Not only are fulfilling, part-time jobs hard to come by, but so is inexpensive, quality childcare.

Infant care centers, those ser-

ving children under two years old, are especially scarce. In San Francisco it is not unusual to be placed on a waiting list of a year or more for infant-care. Fees range up to \$450 per month and subsidized slots are almost always filled.

Centers for older children are more common, but it is still difficult to find subsidized openings.

Staff members at the Childcare Switchboard, a city-wide referral service for parents seeking childcare, informed me that Bernal residents often have to go to the Mission District to find space for their kids.

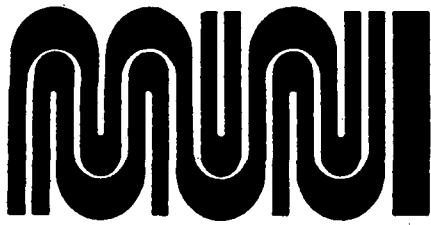
I was pleasantly surprised, however, to find a great number of facilities available in Bernal Heights,

though many of them are full. These low-cost childcare and pre-school options do have occasional openings and may be well worth waiting for. Following are short sketches of what several of them have to offer.

The Bernal Heights State Pre-School Program is comfortably nestled behind the library on Cortland Avenue. The spacious well-lit rooms open out onto a big playground which is being spruced up with a new mural.

This pre-kindergarten program accepts children from 3 years 9 months to 4 years 9 months. It operates on a half-day schedule five days a week and is free to eligible low-income families.

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## Route Changes Proposed

During the first two weeks of January, the Planning Department of MUNI held a series of hearings on proposed route changes. These changes, it appears, would affect riders on all of the routes now serving Bernal Heights.

These changes include the following:

1. Electrification of the 24 which now runs on Cortland. Route changes on this line would be minor and are outside Bernal.
2. Replacement of the 12 Ocean by a line called the 47 Van Ness which would run from City College along the old 12 route until it got to Van Ness, where it would turn and go to Aquatic Park.
3. A new line called the 67 Bernal Heights, which would incorporate aspects of the old 13 Ellsworth, 23 Crescent and 9 Richland.
4. Increased frequency of the 14 Mission.
5. Elimination of the 9 Richland and 27 Noe (Farmer's Market route).

Elimination of the 9 seems to have generated the most concern of all the proposals. Riders used to taking this bus would, under the proposed scheme, have to transfer from a Mission bus to the new 67 to get the south side of Bernal.

It is felt that south slope seniors accustomed to taking the 9 from transfer points and the shopping area surrounding the 30th and Mission Safeway would be discouraged by having to transfer for such a relatively short trip.

In a letter addressed to Peter Strauss of MUNI planning, Bernal resident Ron Silliman pointed out that "MUNI's proposal will limit many seniors to the reduced selection and higher prices of the small market at Mission and Richland, and will keep them from other important services altogether." Silliman suggests extending the 67 to 30th and Mission to take care of this problem.

Michael Cronbach of MUNI planning agreed that this was the biggest problem with the changes affecting Bernal, but responded that the proposal is not completely open or shut.

He stated that the initial proposals are subject to change in the public hearing and response process and that there are "always modifications" even after a plan is implemented. He also stated that the option of extending the 67 to Safeway is being considered.

Though the period of public

## Condos Planned—Neighbors Want Park

by Jeanne Choy Tate

The saga of a mini-park for Coleridge Street began fourteen long years ago in 1968. That was when the Bernal Heights Improvement Plan was adopted by the City Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

It took another ten years for the Recreation and Park Department to allocate money to translate the concept of a mini-park into a reality.

That was 1978. Money was set aside to acquire lots on both Mission Street and Coleridge Street to continue the Esmeralda Steps all the way through from the top of the hill to the bottom, and to develop a series of mini-parks for the community.

Though the money was in place, more time passed without action by the city. The City did not even act when a developer bought up the lots on Mission Street and built condominiums.

A mini-park on Mission was no longer a possibility and still there was no move to develop Open Space for the Coleridge Street site. In response, a group of concerned neighbors formed the Coleridge Street Neighbors in 1979. It was hoped that the City might finally be pushed into developing a neighborhood mini-park.

This time, the Recreation and Park Department was pushed to also consider, as a potential site, the parking lot of the closed bowling alley. Rec and Park recognized the need and funds for the purpose were available.

Bernal Heights has a proportionately small amount of Open Space in comparison to the rest of the City and a proportionately high number of children and youth. Because of this everyone has agreed to the need for a mini-park.

But...once again, years have passed and there has been no move to spend the money which was originally

set aside for site acquisition.

George Woo, the owner of two of the lots at the foot of the Esmeralda Steps, has submitted plans to the Planning Department to develop a six-unit condominium on the site. This requires a conditional use permit, as the site is only zoned for four units.

The proposed development is box-like in design and low-cost in construction. In fact, the owner has estimated a profit of \$470,000 on the proposed units.

Not only will parking spaces be lost in a neighborhood where they are sorely needed, but cars will be pulling in and out of four garages on Coleridge in a very unsafe and blind area.

The residents of Coleridge Street have been waiting for a mini-park for more than fourteen years. It is said that only \$25 has ever been spent to acquire land for Open Space in Bernal Heights. It is time for the City to act before another generation grows up without play space.

On Thursday, February 3, the Planning Commission will hear testimony and make a decision on the developer's request for a conditional use permit. They will also decide whether the project will have a significant environmental impact.

For more information, or to join those concerned, call Leo Devito at 285-2257 or Jeanne Choy Tate at 282-2990.

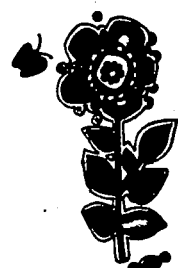
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hearings is over, the last hearing was January 13, the changes are not due to take effect until summer.

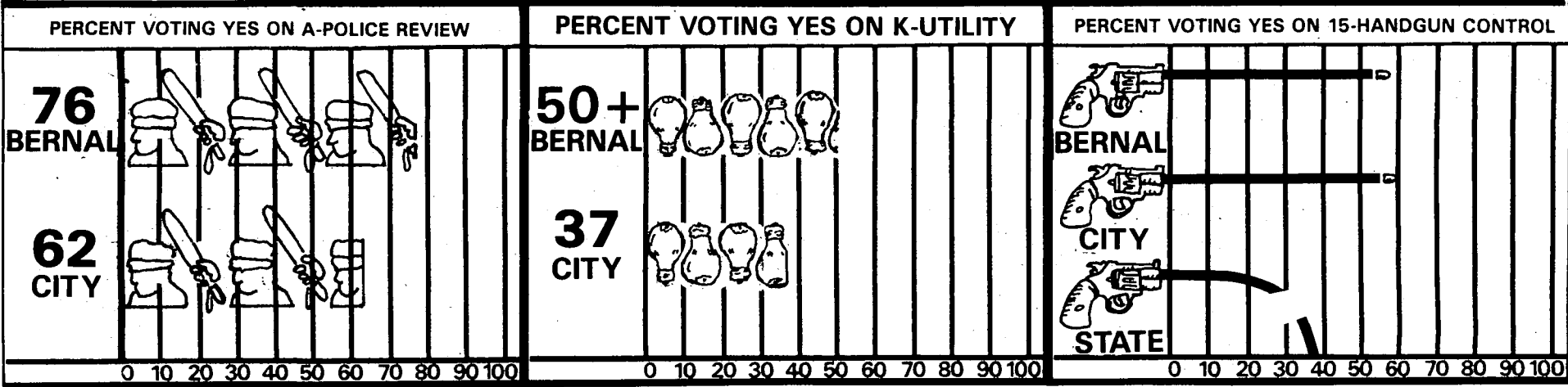
MUNI is still taking input regarding these route changes and proposed changes of fares and transfer use. Write or call MUNI Planning, Room 204, 949 Presidio Avenue, SF, 94115; 558-5284, or let us know at the Bernal Journal and we will pass on your suggestions.

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WHICH SIDE WERE WE ON?



BERNAL VOTERS REBEL  
IN NOVEMBER ELECTION  
by Carlos Alcala

In last November's elections, voters chose Tom Bradley for Governor, Nancy Walker for President of the Board of Supervisors, and approved a measure calling for a feasibility study on the subject of city ownership of the electric utility.

Which voters are those? They are the 6457 people who voted in the 20 precincts making up Bernal Heights.

According to Walker, aside from showing our "good taste," the results were a "reflection on the intelligence of voters in Bernal and their understanding of the issues."

As a result of this "understanding," Bernal residents voted more progressively than the city as a whole and much more so than voters statewide.

But in spite of more progressive voting, Bernal results came out like the city's in many ways. For example, Bernal chose the same five candidates for Supervisor. The only difference in the top five vote getters was a switch in position between Walker and city "favorite" Wendy Nelder.

Walker, fourth in city voting, was clearly the favorite in Bernal, getting 20% more votes than second place finisher, Richard Hongisto.

Other interesting results: Lee

- Dolson, who barely missed being elected city-wide, came in a distant seventh in Bernal, a former area of strength. Olga Talamante, from the Bernal-based Democratic Workers Party finished right behind Dolson.
- The top ten finishers for the city and Bernal are as follows:
- | CITY                 | BERNAL           |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Wendy Nelder      | Nancy Walker     |
| 2. Richard Hongisto  | Richard Hongisto |
| 3. Doris Ward        | Doris Ward       |
| 4. Nancy Walker      | Wendy Nelder     |
| 5. Bill Maher        | Bill Maher       |
| 6. Lee Dolson        | Ben Tom          |
| 7. Ben Tom           | Lee Dolson       |
| 8. Dave Wharton      | Olga Talamante   |
| 9. Bob Squeri        | Sister Boom Boom |
| 10. Sister Boom Boom | Dave Wharton     |

Bernal's positions in voting on city propositions give further indication of how our area relates politically to the city. Though the city as a whole did vote for a police review board, Bernal voters seemed to feel more strongly on the issue--76% voted for civilian review here, as opposed to 62% of city-wide votes. Perhaps this is a reflection of how Bernal residents view the police as a result of their experiences.

While the city as a whole barely turned down Proposition L, an attempt to ban access ramps from city hall, Bernal took a stronger stand in support of the disabled by voting a-

gainst the measure by a two-to-one margin.

Finally, Proposition K gave us a good indication of how Bernal's more progressive bent could make a difference. While city voters succumbed to a scare campaign, heavily financed by PG&E, and turned down the proposition by a two-to-one margin, Bernal voters actually voted to pass the measure. The proposition, which would have authorized a feasibility study on the subject of public ownership of the electric utility, got a bare majority in Bernal, gaining 2721 yes votes against 2672 noes.

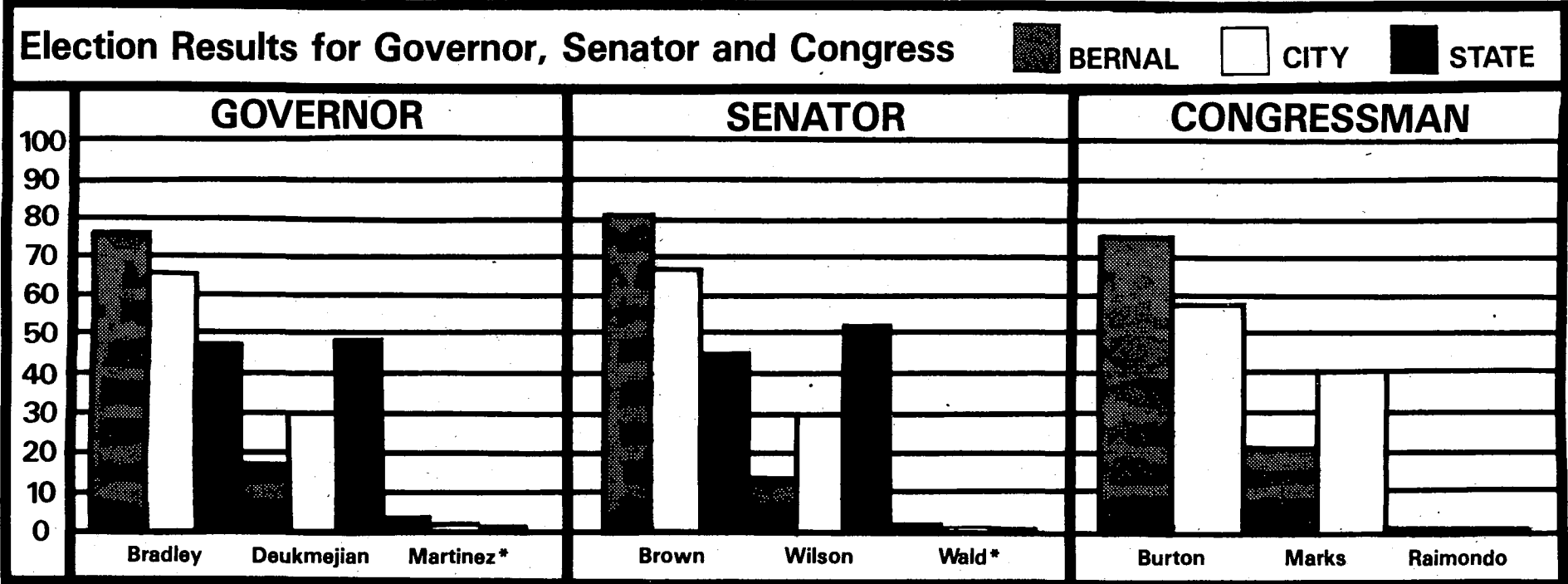
One final race with a local angle was the contest for State Senator from the Eighth District. Bernal Heights resident Leanne Guth, running as a Republican against incumbent John Foran, got 18% of the vote, including 507 votes in Bernal.

Though Bernal did vote more progressively than the city, the real disparity appears in comparisons between Bernal and state voting.

This disparity appears nowhere more clearly than in voting for US Senator. While Pete Wilson was elected by 51% to 45% for Jerry Brown, in Bernal voters were picking Brown by a better than five-to-one margin.

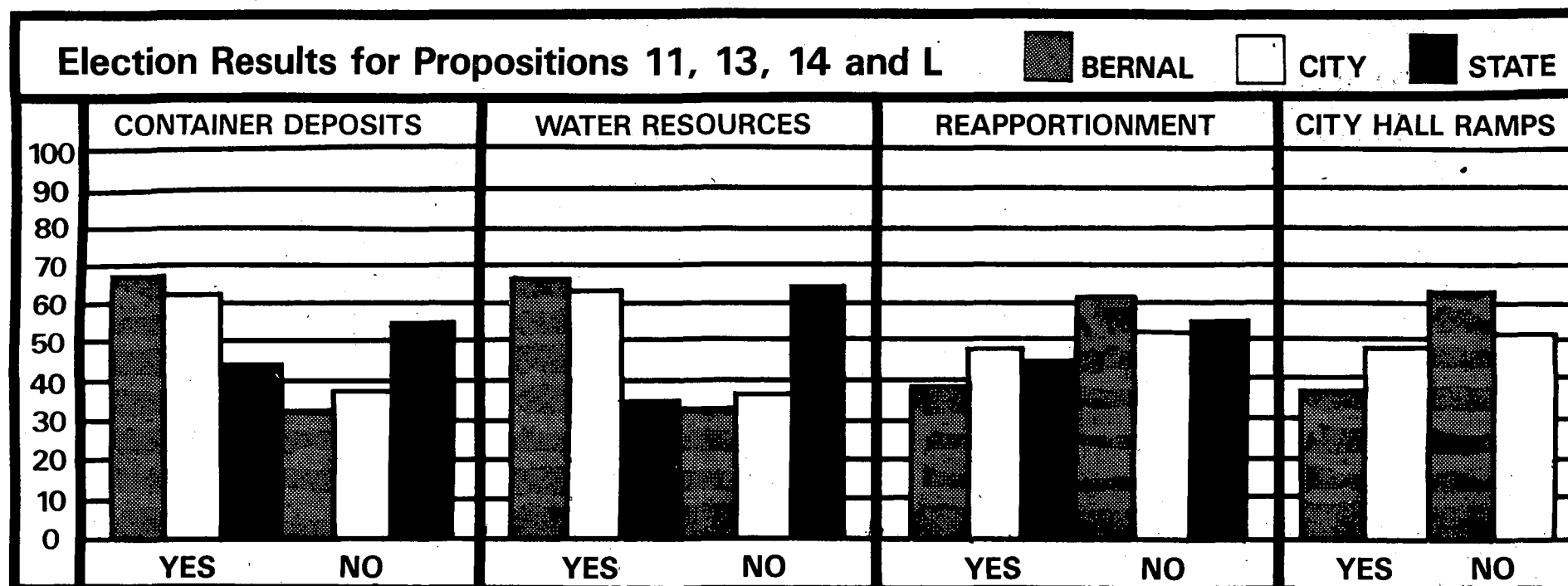
Similarly, in the race for the

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\* candidate was third in Bernal and SF voting, fourth in state





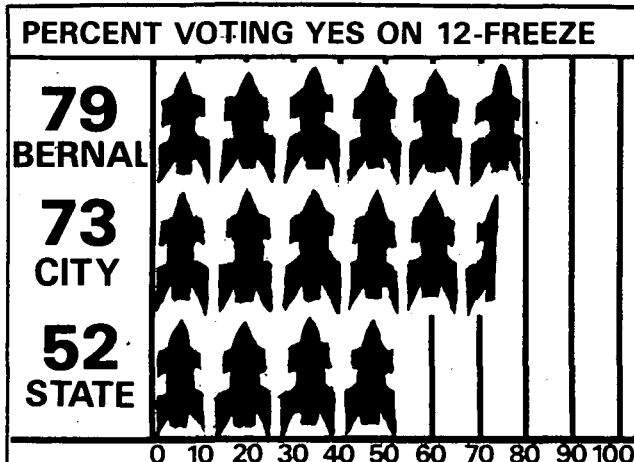
### BERNAL VOTING

*continued from page 3*

Similarly, in the race for the governorship, Tom Bradley handily defeated George Deukmejian in Bernal (77% to 18%), while being edged (49% to 48%) in statewide results.

Candidates from third parties such as Peace and Freedom (a coalition of progressives) fared poorly in November's election. Since it is clear that there is progressive sentiment in Bernal, it is likely that poor showings by the alternative parties is not a result of voter disagreement with platforms, but rather is due to a perception that these candidates don't have a chance.

Bernal also showed some interesting voting patterns in voting on statewide propositions. As graphs show, Bernal voted strongly for Proposition 11, the "bottle bill," for the Nuclear Freeze initiative and for Proposition 13, on water conservation. Bernal also voted to pass Proposition 15, about handgun control and voted strongly to defeat Proposition 14, which would have established a reapportionment commission.



Bernal's voting on the Freeze was especially strong, with 79% voting for the measure. A Bernal Heights Freeze Committee spent many hours working before the election canvassing in Bernal, registering voters, passing out information at Safeway and showing a film for the neighborhood.

When asked whether he thought that their hours of work had paid off, Neil Stadtmire, a member of the committee, said that "it certainly didn't hurt any" and added that he was pleased with the results. Supervisor Walker, on the other hand, was

surprised that Bernal had not supported the Freeze even more strongly.

While Bernal did vote to approve the state handgun initiative, its margin was, somewhat surprisingly, less than the margin in the city at large.

Supervisor Walker, who supported the initiative and opposed the city's handgun ban, suggested that people were hesitant to give up the right to have firearms while the government was still armed. Walker also pointed out that many people were deceived by propaganda claiming that the measure was going to ban guns, when it only intended to institute handgun control.

Though we can be pleased with Bernal's generally more progressive voting, one statistic was disappointing. The figure of 6457 voters in Bernal precincts represents only 57% of registered voters. It is disheartening to see that "activist" Bernal had a lower turnout than the city as a whole (63%).



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## AUTO ACCIDENTS

by Steven M. Birnbaum  
Attorney-at-Law

I was in my office the other day, when Mrs. Green stopped by to seek my advice. She had had a minor auto accident and was not sure what she should do.

While stopped at an intersection Mrs. Green had been rear-ended. Although shaken and shocked, she felt no pain and, after inspection found only a slight dent in her rear fender.

Because the damage was minor, she only exchanged license information with the other driver and agreed to accept a small cash payment as compensation for the damage.

After leaving the scene of the accident, Mrs. Green began to be troubled by the thought that the agreement was going to leave her on

the "short end of the stick." Her neck was gradually becoming stiff and she was worried that she was going to be stuck with medical bills resulting from the accident.

She came to me to see whether there was something she could do. I gave her the following information and am passing it on to you, so you will know before you have an accident.

Everyone has a duty to stop after an accident, unless there is no damage or personal injury. If there is injury, every driver involved must give his/her name, address, car registration number and car owner's name. The drivers must also, when asked, show a drivers license.

Most people do not realize that state law also requires an involved driver to render assistance to any injured person and to protect untended property.

The financial responsibility requirements for driving in California are quite confusing and sometimes

result in the driver's loss of license. Those requirements say, in effect, that everyone who owns a vehicle is expected to be financially able to pay damages to a victim of an accident caused by them.

The most common way of proving financial responsibility is through proof of purchase of an automobile liability insurance policy. If the driver does not have insurance, then the accident causing driver can be required to deposit an amount of money with the state. This deposit would be large enough, in the state's judgment, to satisfy any damage claims arising from the accident.

Submission of proof of financial responsibility to the State Department of Motor Vehicles is required when the accident involves more than \$500 dollars damage, bodily injury or death.

Submission of proof must be made within 15 days of the accident or the

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## FARMER'S MARKET

Photo page by David Butterfield

It's a sunny Saturday morning, you've got nothing to eat in the house, but why go to the supermarket? Get some fresh air and some fresh produce at the Farmers Market. This isn't just shopping, it's an adventure.

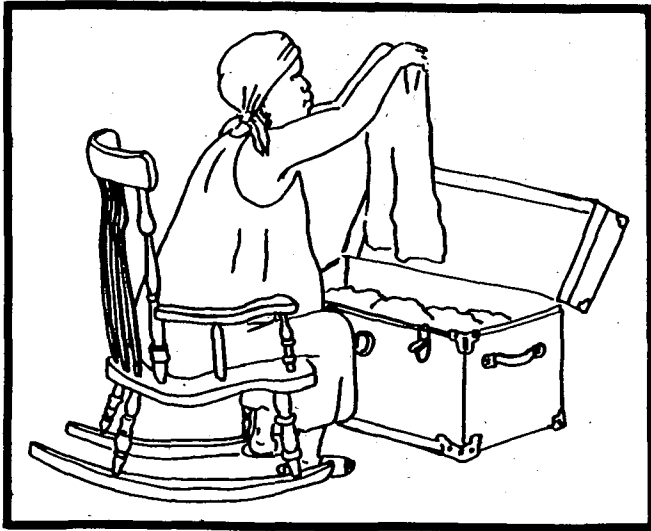
From their stalls or right off their trucks, growers from all over Northern California sell the widest variety of farm goods you will ever see, from artichokes to zucchini, eggs, nuts, fruit juice, even peanut brittle. And if you take the time to look, you will surely save money by buying directly from the producer.

Talk here usually concerns farm life, produce prices or the weather. Even if you're not listening, you can see the farm in the sun-worked faces and hands of most of the sellers. There's something about this connection between farmers and their produce that makes the Market hard to resist. Count on taking home plenty.

While you're there don't forget about the Recycling Center located in the back parking lot: the best place to leave those bottles, newspapers and aluminum cans.

The Farmers Market is located at 100 Alemany (at Crescent), and is open 9-6, Tuesday through Saturday.





## Heirlooms

by Dorothy Kennedy Hutchins

The steamer trunk stood open. The great big lid was raised, waiting for small fingers to come within its sharp reach. Mama always told me to watch out for the lid, but sometimes I think she forgets.

"Smells like a rat's nest," she said. Eyes narrowed, she bent down over her big belly and sniffed. Then she straightened up and started taking out the sheets and pillow cases. Fingers safely behind my back, I watched her pile them on a chair. As she removed more things the smell got stronger.

"I don't know how they got in here," she said, reaching for the last layer of sheets.

Then she froze with her arm reaching into the trunk, like she'd forgotten what she was doing. Then she sank to one knee, her head bowed over the trunk, her face a web of creases. The lid of the trunk reared over us, quivering. I reached out and grabbed a handful of her sleeve, just as daddy came in from the well with a bucket of water.

"I told you to go to bed. You want to have that baby on the floor?" He put down the bucket of water and helped her to bed. Earlier the two of them had turned back the covers and spread layers of newspaper between the mattress and the sheet. The newspapers rustled as she leaned back against the pillows. Daddy came back to the trunk and removed the last layer of sheets.

I stood on tiptoe and looked down into the trunk. Eight baby rats were curled up in what was left of a set of embroidered sheets that had been mama's wedding gift from grandmother. Sitting up in bed waiting for Miss Jones, the midwife, she didn't say a word when daddy told her about the rats, but after a while, she cried. My brothers said the rats made her cry.

Dusty pink, eyes covered with thin, unopened lids, they squeaked and cried like they understood every word my brothers were saying as they dragged the trunk out into the yard.

"Turn it up on the end," said Bennie. Baby rats tumbled over each other as my younger brother,

Clifford, stood the trunk on end.

"Pile those rocks over here and get the slingshot." Bennie put a row of larger rocks across the opening, then placed wadded up paper inside the trunk and lit it. Smoke filled the up-ended trunk, and squealing baby rats headed toward fresh air. The two boys knelt down, slingshot ready, and waited for the first small head to appear over the rocks.

"There's one." Clifford was squealing like the rats. Bennie stretched out on his stomach, took careful aim, and let the pebble fly. Bright blood welled up where the head had been, and body fell back.

"You got em! You got em!"

Clifford was jumping up and down.

"Now it's my turn." He grabbed the slingshot, took hasty aim, and shakily let fly a pebble. It bounced off the side of the trunk.

"You missed, now it's my turn again." Bennie took careful aim and picked off another baby rat... and then another.

"Hey, you took my turn," yelled Clifford.

"Uh uh." Bennie shook his head from side to side. "It's my turn til I miss."

"No it ain't!" Clifford grabbed the slingshot. Bennie snatched it away and pushe him. Clifford pushed back. Soon they were fighting in earnest, with Bennie getting the best of his smaller brother.

"What chu boys doin?" We hadn't noticed Miss Jones come into the yard. She was standing there like she'd been there all day. She was wearing her black coat, which she wore winter and summer, and her black hat, and carrying her black bag. Miss Jones was the same color as the bag. One of her eyes was covered over, like the baby rats, and the other was always red and runny. She got out her chewing tobacco and took a bite.

"You boys is bad. The devil gon git chu. He gon put chu in a trunk and shoot at chu wit a slingshot. Only, he ain gon burn paper, he gon

burn you!" The boys didn't move. Bennie was still holding Clifford down with his fist raised, like they were playing statues. My mother groaned inside the house, and Miss Jones went in to her.

The sun was almost down and the breeze was turning cool. My brothers had gone down the hill towards Aunt Dump's house, looking for playmates. They wouldn't let me go with them. The yard was growing cold and full of shadows. I went inside where Mama was.

The house seemed empty, and cold as the yard. Mama was not in the kitchen. There were no bubbling pots on the stove, no warm smell of supper, and no lamps lit. I walked through the dim silence down the hallway to mama and daddy's room. From the doorway I saw the mound of my mother's body in the bed.

"Come see what Miss Jones gave me." I walked over to the bed and she turned back a corner of the quilt. There was a baby sleeping in my mother's arms, just like it belonged there.

"You got a little sister. Ain't she pretty?" The baby's hair was smooth and shiny, and fitted her head like a cap. Her mouth looked like a little pink bow ribbon, and she had dimples.

"She looks just like you did when you were born," said Mama. I didn't believe her.

"Why didn't Miss Jones give her to Dump?" I asked. The bed shook with Mama's laughter. I heard the front door open and daddy came down the hall and into the room.

"What chu laughin bout?" he asked, lighting a lamp. My mother told him what I had said and they both laughed. I continued to stand by the bed.

"Come on in the kitchen with me," daddy said. I leaned my head against the bed where my mother lay, satisfied with someone new. She

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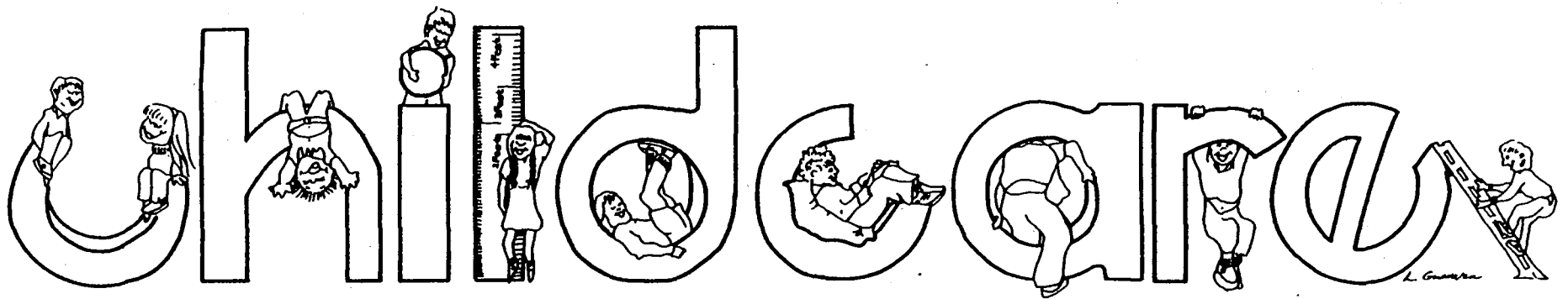
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## CHILDCARE

*continued from front page*

The day that I visited I was impressed with the well-organized open room with children playing quietly in several areas. One group of boys and girls was busy washing dishes at a small table. Another was playing with building sets while a third was busy drawing. Everyone seemed happy, including the four parents who were helping to supervise.

Theresa Blea, the new staff person, told me that this is also a parent education program in which parents work one day a week (3 hours) and participate in classes for which they get Community College credit. Many of the classes take the form of group discussion about topics such as discipline, nutrition and games.

According to Theresa, "parents often talk about younger siblings. It gives parents an opportunity to give to children and see where they need help. Working as parent teams is good because they can learn from each other."

Theresa feels that the pre-school has a neighborhood quality and "gives parents an opportunity to get to know each other. This gives support and a homey feeling."

The two parents I talked with enjoyed the pre-school and had already sent other children there. One woman told me that this pre-school involved a lot less bureaucracy than others. "You don't have to fill out as many forms to get in."

Activities include field trips, language skills, science, and music and health care. The program is bilingual, and has a mixture of black, latino, asian and white children and parents. A hearty snack is provided for the children and parents take turns cooking lunch. There is an emphasis on using mostly fresh whole foods.

Bernal Heights State Pre-School has a capacity of 25 children and there are now a few openings. For more information call Theresa Blea at 285-6215.

In contrast, the Cortland Head Start, located right across the street, adjacent to the Neighborhood Center, seemed under-funded and crowded into a very small space.

Justine and Maria, the two staff people, told me that there is no money for extras. This included toys

all of which had been donated.

The Head-Start program is federally funded and is one of many centers around the city (including one near Precita Park). This program has 20 children from 3 to 5 years old. It is free to eligible low-income families. All administration is conducted from the central Capp Street office, and a central kitchen caters breakfast and lunch with a cross-cultural flavor. The Head Start day goes from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm Monday through Friday.

Despite funding problems, there did seem to be a sense of camaraderie. I first visited the program in the midst of a Thanksgiving potluck. Children were running about gleefully, while their parents chatted and ate from big plates of food.

Parents are asked to participate seven hours per month and are encouraged to go to classes on topics such as health and nutrition. The program is bilingual and all materials are written in Spanish and English.

Each week there is a schedule for activities which includes everything from group discussions to vis-

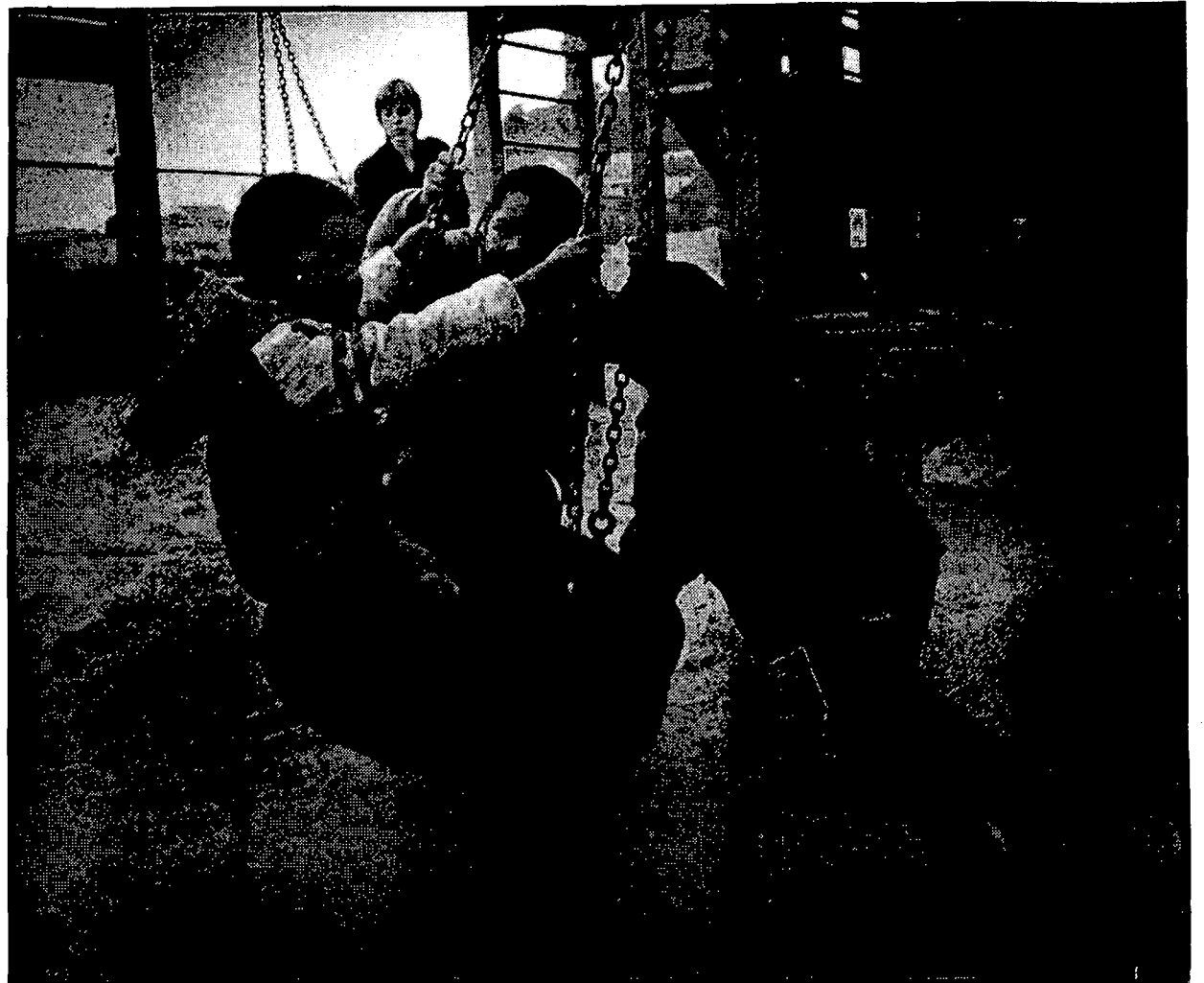
its to the park to individual play periods with play dough, gravel or paints.

Although there are no current openings, there may be some in the spring. To register, call the Capp Street office at 285-4050.

One block further down Cortland is a house with bright curtains in the window and a special child-proof wooden bolt on the door. According to their brochure, "Little People's Workshop is a parent-run cooperative that is working towards quality childcare created in a non-sexist, non-racist and non-authoritarian atmosphere, promoting good nutrition and helping to provide a positive learning experience for each child. It is especially geared to help working people with low-moderate incomes."

They now have a full roster of children aged 18 months to 3 years. Unlike most other facilities, they don't require toilet training. "They learn from other kids," according to one of the parents. The Workshop has a set of strict hygienic guidelines, established after an outbreak of ill-

*continued next page*



William, Donte and Melvin use play structure behind library



## CHILDCARE

continued from page 8

ness over a year ago.

The Workshop has an instructor who come daily from 10-1:30, but the parents operate most of the program themselves. Each member is expected to work one day (8:30-4:30) per week. More fathers than mothers currently contribute time to the workshop. In addition to work time, members pay \$81 per month per child and receive 5 full days of childcare per week. Parents also attend monthly meetings and help to maintain equipment, shop for supplies, repair toys, etc.

The vegetarian, all natural foods diet includes two snacks and lunch cooked by different parents each day. The day I visited, the snack was an intriguing mixture of fruits and nuts: kiwi fruit, cashews, avocados, oranges, almonds and pears. No meat, sugar or canned food is served.

Selma, a parent who has been with the coop for a year and a half, said that there have been some definite improvements during that time. Selma is Brazilian and for a while her child was the only non-white. Now the program is about half black and latino and is bilingual.

Sharon, the instructor, said that the Little People's Workshop is "a perfect transition for parents. They don't have to give up too much control. It's also a good way for people in the city to meet other parents."

Children are encouraged to go outside at least part of each day. There is a roomy backyard with swings, a child-sized picnic table

and a sandbox. There are also lots of field trips to the library, kindergarten (a children's gymnastic program), and various parks.

There will probably be some openings in the Workshop over the next few months. For more information call Sharon at 648-5156 or drop by the Workshop at 416 Cortland.

This is just a small sampling of available childcare in Bernal Heights. There are also pre-school facilities at St. Kevin's Church, Precita Head-Start and State Pre-School at the Farm (Potrero at Army Street). There are informal baby-sitting coops and parents' groups including the Bernal Babes, which started as a parent support group about a year and a half ago. In addition, there are a few private childcare providers and at least one after-school program.

To find out more about these and other sources of childcare, the best place to go is the Childcare Switchboard at 24th and Sanchez in Noe Valley. They have an excellent system of referrals, which is updated every month. In addition, they can help you decide what system of childcare would best suit your needs. Call 282-7858 for more information.

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This panel will help disputants to identify and eliminate sources of disagreement.

The feuding tenants mentioned above can serve as an example. During the Community Boards hearing process they were able to recognize that their lifestyle differences could be dealt with in a positive way. Before the hearing they had felt that one party or the other would have to move. By the end, however, all parties had agreed that they could, after understanding their differences and making some changes, live in harmony.

If you have a conflict (or know about someone who does) whether it be a dispute similar to the one above, a problem with your landlord or some misunderstanding, Community Boards can help. If you would like to learn more about how Community Boards works, call the Bernal Heights office at 821-6590 or stop by 907 Cortland Ave.

This spring Community Boards will offer a free training program in all phases of dispute resolution. If you are fluent in Tagalog or Spanish, your talents are especially needed, but all are welcome. Call the office if you are interested.

## Heirlooms

continued

raised her head and looked at me over the baby.

"You ain't jealous, is you?"

"Yeah, she jealous." Daddy laughed and went into the kitchen. The front door flew open and Bennie and Clifford came noisily down the hall and into the bedroom. They walked over to the bed.

"Where is it?" asked Bennie. My mother turned back the quilt. They looked at the baby.

"Looks like a dumb girl," said Bennie.

"She's pretty," said Clifford. Then he looked at me and started grinning.

"You ain't the baby anymore," he said.



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## Community Boards

by David Butterfield

Recently, Community Boards volunteers helped to resolve a dispute between two sets of roommates living in a duplex in the neighborhood. The occupants disagreed over several issues including parking, tree trimming and dog problems. The main problem, however, was a difference in lifestyles.

In a community like Bernal Heights, where so many different lifestyles exist, major conflicts can grow from seemingly minor problems between neighbors.

There are many different ways we can deal with our conflicts. We can ignore them and hope they'll go away. We can get angry. We can even hurt each other. We can call a lawyer or we can call the police.

However, if Community Boards is called, a panel of trained conciliators can help to resolve the conflict in a more positive manner.

## AUTO ACCIDENTS

*continued from page 5*

driver could have his/her driving privilege suspended. Usually, if you carry insurance, your agent will take care of this when notified of an accident. If not, inform your attorney or do it yourself.

Also, when in an accident, find out the name and address of the other driver's insurance. Obtaining this information can save a lot of time and expense in the long run.

What about calling the police? Many people involved in auto accidents will not call the police in order to deal with the situation on an informal basis. They are also often concerned about their insurance rates.

The involvement of the police, however, is not only necessary but wise in all but the most minor of accidents. A police report is useful because it describes the accident and the conditions surrounding it. The police may later be your only witness.

It is especially important to call the police when the other driver has left the scene of the accident without giving you the information I mentioned above. The basic rule should be to report all but the most minor accidents to the police as quickly as possible.

What about injuries? Most of do not practice medicine and are unable to tell what kind of injuries might result from the deceptively strong shock of two or more cars striking each other.

For that reason alone, the best advice is to seek medical care. The well-known whiplash injury is a very good example. Symptoms often do not show themselves until two or three days after the accident and an accident victim risks the chance of not being compensated fully for his/her injuries if they fail to seek medical help.

An insurance company or the dri-

ver who caused the accident may not reimburse if the victim did not take the injury seriously enough to go to a doctor or hospital.

When is it appropriate to seek the advice of legal counsel? If you have suffered bodily injury, your attorney should be informed as soon as possible. He or she can examine the circumstances and advise best as to how to deal with the other party's insurance company and can look at your insurance policy to help seek out the maximum protection it provides.

Lawyers are also able to direct accident victims to medical professionals who are experienced in treating victims of accidents. This can be important if litigation occurs.

An attorney may also be helpful if the other party has no insurance and you are looking towards your insurance policy's uninsured motorist clause for protection.

In conclusion, because many of us find driving an automobile to be a necessary and sometimes pleasurable activity, we should all be aware of its significant responsibilities.

If you have a question on this or other legal matters, write the Bernal Lawyer in care of the Bernal Journal.

## HILL HAPPENINGS

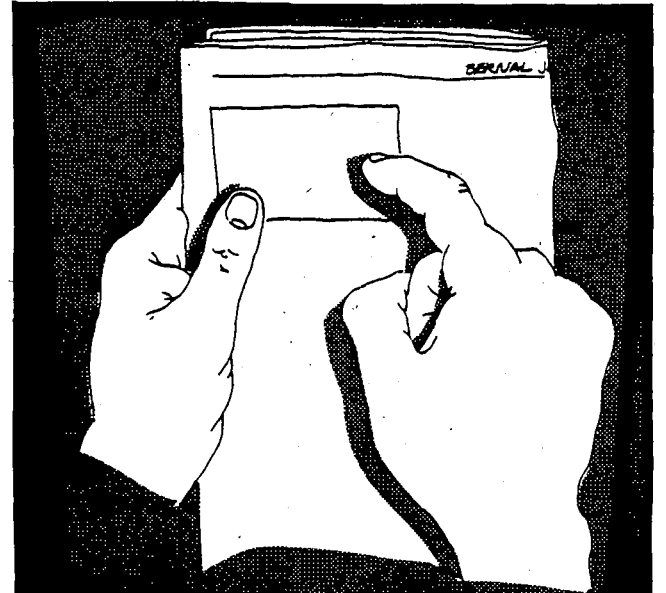
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### BERNAL SENIOR PROGRAM

People 60 years and older and their spouses are eligible for hot lunches, activities and services provided by the Bernal Heights Senior Program.

The program provides lunches Monday through Friday at the Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland.

A new feature of the program is a podiatric clinic on Tuesday from 9 am to 1 pm. Please call for an appointment, 648-0330.



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NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS RESOLVE DISPUTES

## Words from Walker

### STREETSWEEPERS AND MORE

In an effort to increase the flow of information between Bernal Heights and City Hall, we have started this column. In it we will present issues of concern as seen by Supervisor Nancy Walker.

In addition, if readers have concerns to be brought to the Supervisor's attention, they can send them to us and we will pass them on. If they are of general interest, they will be addressed in this column.

This month, Supervisor Walker told us that she and others are investigating city plans to implement Proposition A, to establish an Office of Citizen Complaints for the Police Department. They have sent a letter to the City Attorney to see what is being done. As of when we talked to Walker there was no response.

Walker also said that the Board of Supervisors is working on legislation to give neighborhoods more control over the use of mechanical street-sweeping. Mechanical cleaning of streets began in Bernal Heights at the beginning of January.

In addition, Walker urged that people "keep their eyes on" what is happening in areas that concern us and let our representatives know how we feel. "And that includes me," added Walker.

Walker also stressed that people inform their representatives about what their concerns are and not allow elected officials to determine what the issues should be.

## DE COLORES

Aquí, en Bernal Heights, somos de muchos colores. Incluida en Bernal hay una gran porción de gente hispana. En el censo de 1980, 33% de los respondientes indicaron que se consideraron hispanos.

Por eso, pensamos que un periódico que se considera al servicio de todos en Bernal tiene que aplicarse a la tarea de incluir noticias en español y para los "hispanos."

Tratamos aquí de incluir unos resúmenes breves en español, de los artículos que tenemos en esta edición.

En el futuro, queremos incluir páginas enteras en español, con artículos escritos especialmente para los latinos y latinas de Bernal. Si usted nos puede ayudar en alcanzar esta meta, favor de llamarnos al 285-1084.

Carlos Alcalá

### Cuidado de Niños

En Bernal hay varios programas bilingües pre-escolares. Unos de ellos son baratos o gratis para los de sueldo bajo.

Uno es el "pre-school" del estado que se encuentra abajo de la biblioteca en Cortland. Este programa

# BERNAL JOURNAL

The Bernal Journal is produced every two months by a group of volunteers, with the support of community businesses. Our mailing address is 515 Cortland Avenue, SF, 94110. For information, call Carlos at 285-1084 or Mike, 648-0330.

Managing Editor: Carlos Alcalá  
Editorial Guidance: Phyllis Brown  
Writers: David Butterfield, Liz Walker, Steve Birnbaum, Dorothy Hutchins, Jeanne Choy Tate  
Hill Happenings: Mike Moore  
Photographer: David Butterfield  
Illustrators: Leticia Guevara, Carlos Alcalá  
Paste-up: Sarah Verstegen, Jenny Burroughs  
Typesetting: Bay City Graphics  
Printing: Warren's Waller Press

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next issue is scheduled for March 29. Articles are due March 11. Illustrations and photos are due March 18. Meetings to discuss the next issue will be held February 15 and 22 at the Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland at 7:30 pm. Writers, artists and others are welcome.

## FOR ADVERTISERS

Basic ad rate for display advertising is \$10 per column inch. Business card rate is \$20. Discounts are available to regular advertisers and for large ads (8 column inches or more.)

Deadline for camera-ready art is 10 days before publishing date. Deadline for next issue is March 19. For more information, call 285-1084.

ma incluye dos maestras bilingües y la participación de los padres. Para más información, llame a Theresa Blea al 285-6215.

Otro es el Head-Start en Cortland. No hay lugares ahora en este programa pero la situación puede cambiar en la primavera. Para más información, llame a la oficina central en Capp Street, 285-4050.

El único programa de todo el día es la cooperativa, Little People's Workshop. La cooperativa es anti-sexista, anti-racista y vegetariana. Para información, llame a Sharon, 648-5156.

Estos tres no son los únicos programas en Bernal. También hay programas en la iglesia St. Kevin's y en Precita Center. Para más información sobre cuidado de niños también se puede ir al Childcare Switchboard. Llame a ellos al 282-7858.



## FROM THE EDITOR

Good news and bad news.

The good news is that we have a new masthead as part of the BJ's new image. We hope you like it.

The bad news is that we did not have enough money to have the issue typeset. We hope we can change that.

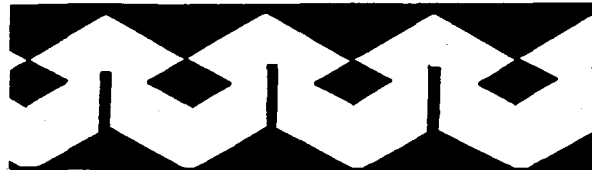
There was so much that we thought was important to include in this issue that we had to go to a 12 page issue. Because of that and the shortage of advertising, the issue was, except for headlines and ads, typed.

It looks to me that the slow (to understate things) economy has hit the Bernal Journal. Even some of our most loyal advertisers were forced to pass on this issue because they didn't have the money.

However, it looks like we are building a base of advertisers and we will continue to look for more advertisers, so that we can bring you more and better issues of the Bernal Journal.

On another track, I would like to encourage you to send us your responses to the paper as well as material for the next issue. Given space considerations, we will try to print letters that we receive. We hope to hear from you.

Carlos Alcalá



### MUNI

MUNI tiene planes de cambiar casi todas las rutas que sirven Bernal Heights. Este incluye la eliminación de las rutas 9 Richland, 12 Ocean y otros. También van a iniciar una ruta llamada 67 Bernal que reemplazará las rutas 13 y 23. Para más información, busca la guía de cambios de rutas en la biblioteca o llámenos.

### Elecciones

En las elecciones de noviembre, los votantes de Bernal Heights parecieron más progresistas que los de la ciudad o del estado en general. Aquí preferimos a Nancy Walker, Jerry Brown, y Tom Bradley, no a Wendy Nelder, Pete Wilson y George Deukmejian. Detalles en página 3.

# ngs \* Hill Happenings \* Hill Happenings \* Hill Happenings

## **BERNAL HEIGHTS COUNCIL**

The Bernal Heights Council held a festive Christmas Party in conjunction with the Community Boards Program and the Bernal Heights Association. Those attending the potluck affair donated a boxful of toys for neighborhood children.

The Council is launching a hill-wide organizing drive this spring, including a door-to-door canvass and a "Bernal Congress" to plan action on important issues such as crime and housing. Be watching for upcoming events in this "Bernal Heights Unity Drive." If you want to help to build the strength of our neighborhood, or if you just want an alternative to television, join with us.

The Council meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. The next meeting is February 17. For more information, call Mike Moore at 648-0330.

## **CURE**

Are you interested in keeping your energy bill down, in buying (or growing) low-cost, locally-grown food, in creating job opportunities for local youth, or in a Bernal skills-exchange network? Come to the next meeting of the Center for the Urban Environment (CURE) and find out how you can help make these projects happen. CURE is a new neighborhood group that wants to build a sense of community in Bernal by developing projects that use appropriate technology, i.e. technology which is understandable, locally controlled and environmentally sound.

Our next meeting will be at 310 Andover Street on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 3 pm. Bring a potluck dish to share. For more information about CURE, our energy/home repair program or our committee on food and gardening, call Jon or Liz at 285-9685.

## **BERNAL HEIGHTS LIBRARY**

The Bernal Heights Library, at 500 Cortland, provides a variety of services and is open Monday through Friday from 1 to 6 pm. Additionally, it is open Tuesday mornings, 10 to 12 noon, and Wednesday evenings, from 6 to 9.

Regular services include pre-school children's programs each Tuesday at 10:30 am and Wednesday at 7pm.

Special programs in coming months:

February 15: A film for kids at 10:30 am and 3:30 pm

March 16: "Tips for Survival and Inexpensive Fun in SF." 7 pm.

April 20: Community Board conflict resolution program.

## **ALABAMA-RIPLEY BLOCK CLUB COLERIDGE STREET NEIGHBORS**

These groups are the latest to challenge under-controlled condominium development in Bernal Heights. They are working for safe, affordable development, compatible with the neighborhood.

For more information on the Coleridge Street group see the article on page 2.

For information on the work of the Alabama-Ripley group call Lee at 285-9258 or Mike at 648-0330.

## **BERNAL SCOUTS**

Would you like to be a Cub Scout? Are you between the ages of 8 and 10? Or are you between 11 and 18 with a taste for hiking, swimming, fishing and the outdoors?

If you are interested in Scouting, Cubs meet at the Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland, on Fridays at 4 pm. Older Scouts meet Wednesdays from 7 to 8:45 pm.

## **BERNAL HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION**

The Bernal Heights Association, a neighborhood association organized in 1966, is a place where people can get together to improve their community and to learn about its people and history.

The Association meets regularly and charges dues of only two dollars per year. This includes delivery of the Bernal Journal. Bernal residents who are not on the BHA mailing list can call Judy Forsberg evenings at 282-3620.

## **BHCF**

The construction of the Holladay Avenue Homes will soon be complete, and the four families will be moving into their new, permanently affordable, energy efficient homes.

The Foundation continues its program of low-cost housing rehabilitation loans. These low-interest loans are for correcting life threatening hazards. More information can be obtained from Larry Moore, at 647-4255.

The Community Foundation is in the process of planning ahead for the next years. A planning retreat of the Board, staff, and volunteers is in the works for early March. Also planned is an expansion of the number of people on the Board of Directors. It is hoped that the neighborhood canvass will provide information from residents about what directions the Foundation should take.

## **GYM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Due to construction, the next three meetings of the Committee will be held at the Neighborhood Center.

Gym Director Larry Peoples has joined the staff at the Center for those few months and will return to the gym upon completion of work.

Topics for upcoming meetings, fourth Wednesday of the month, include the GED program, youth activities, and the upcoming sports events with SF Parks and Recreation Dept. Interested people are encouraged to attend.

## **PRECITA CENTER**

The Center, in the sixtieth year of operation, has a large schedule of activities for all ages. Programs include two daily pre-school sessions, an after-school arts and crafts program, weight room for teens, volleyball, basketball and Dancercise. For information call 285-7833.

## **ST. KEVIN'S CHURCH**

St. Kevin's Parish begins its annual fund-raising drive with pre-festival activities sponsored by the various church organizations.

We welcome all Bernal residents to participate in the following events:

February 26--Latino Dance

March 12--Filipino Reno Trip

March 19--Youth Talent Show

April 10--Champagne Bingo

May 20-22 Festival "Circus Circus"

For information call 648-5751

## **BERNAL RECYCLING CENTER**

You can now recycle Monday/Wednesday/Friday mornings from 9 to 12 noon. Recycle glass, aluminum, newspaper and computer paper. Tin cans no longer are accepted. You can also come on Saturdays between 9 and 2 pm.

The center recently purchased a bin to sort glass by color. This will increase revenues, but the center still has a temporary cash flow problem. If you can make a donation or loan, please call 282-0364. The recycling center is located behind the Farmer's Market, 100 Alemany Blvd.

## **PARK-ANDOVER BLOCK CLUB**

This block club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month in order to discuss and work on community issues.

The December meeting was addressed by the Director of the San Francisco SPCA. January's meeting will include discussion of proposed MUNI changes and a proposal to make Richland a one-way street between Andover and Murray. For more information, call 648-0830.

*continued on page 10*